APPLICANT(S):

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REMARKS

The present response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of objection and/or rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Applicants assert that the present invention is new, non-obvious and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

Status of Claims

Claims 2, 3, 9, 12-15, 20, 21, 26, 27, 31, 33, 35 and 36 are pending in the application.

Claims 13-15 are allowed.

Claims 2, 9, 12, 20, 21, 26, 27, 31, 33 and 35 have been amended.

Claims 1, 4-8, 10, 11, 16-19, 22-25, 28-30, 32, and 34 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. In making this cancellation without prejudice, Applicants reserve all rights in these claims to file divisional and/or continuation patent applications.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for allowing claims 13-15.

In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that claims 2-3, 9, 12, 20-21, 26-27 and 35-36 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

Claims 2, 9, 12, 20, 21, 26, 27 and 35 have been rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 3 depends directly from claim 2 and incorporates all the elements of this claim. Claim 36 depends directly from claim 35 and incorporates all the elements of this claim. Accordingly, claims 2, 3, 9, 12, 20, 21, 26, 27, 35 and 36 should now all be in condition for allowance.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

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35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 4-8, 10-11, 16-18, 22-24, 29 and 31-34 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In addition, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 4-8, 10-11, 16-18, 22-24, 29, and 31-34 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the elements.

Without conceding the appropriateness of this rejection, Applicants respectfully assert that, in view of the cancellation of claims 1, 4-8, 10, 11, 16-18, 22-24, 29, and 32, and the amendments to claims 31 and 33, the rejections of claims 1, 4-8, 10-11, 16-18, 22-24, 29 are now moot, and the rejection of claims 31 and 33 are overcome.

35 U.S.C. § 101 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 31-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claims 31 and 33 have been amended to recite a machine-readable medium. Claim 32 has been canceled. In view of this amendment, and without conceding the appropriateness of this rejection, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 31-33 under 35 USC §101 be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 19, 22 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being clearly anticipated by Colwell et al. (US Patent No. 5,471,633).

In view of the cancellation of claims 19, 22, and 24, and without conceding the appropriateness of this rejection, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 19, 22, and 24 under 35 USC §102(b) is now moot.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

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In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 25, 28 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Colwell et al. in view of Nguyen (US Patent No. 6,560,083).

In view of the cancellation of claims 25, 28, and 30, without conceding the appropriateness of this rejection, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 25, 28, and 30 under 35 USC §103(a) is now moot.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the pending claims are deemed to be allowable. Their favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any question or comment as to the form, content or entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below. Similarly, if there are any further issues yet to be resolved to advance the prosecution of this application to issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned counsel.

Please charge any fees associated with this paper to deposit account No. 50-3355.

Respectfully submitted

Naim Shichrur

Attorney/Agent for Applicants Registration No. 56,248

Dated: July 13, 2006

Pearl Cohen Zedek Latzer, LLP 1500 Broadway, 12th Floor New York, New York 10036

Tel: (646) 878-0800 Fax: (646) 878-0801